

NEWSLETTER

University of Iowa Chapter - AAUP

March 31, 2006

Lois Cox, Newsletter Editor

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The next meeting of the Executive Committee will occur as part of the chapter's Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2006 in the Lindquist Room on the lower level of the downtown Sheraton Iowa City Hotel. See the announcement later in this newsletter for details. If you would like to become a member of the Executive Committee, please contact president Peter Hansen at peter-j-hansen@uiowa.edu

Message from the President

The composition of the presidential search committee is on the minds of many University of Iowa faculty members these days. Nearly everyone agrees that in recent decades the university has been blessed with a series of outstanding presidents. All of these presidents, although appointed by the Board of Regents, were recommended by search committees chaired by faculty members, the membership of which was dominated by faculty members.

The old adage, if it aint broke, dont fix it, might suggest that the composition of the current search committee ought to follow the same pattern, but clearly the Iowa Board of Regents does not agree. The Board appointed Teresa Wahlert, president and chief operating officer of the Mid-America Group, as the chairwoman of the search committee.

Although it is expected that a faculty member will be appointed vice-chair, my fear is that the regents will adopt the Noahs Ark model two regents, two faculty members, two alumni, two students Although this model ostensibly provides representation for all of the university's various constituencies, it will seriously dilute the faculty's influence.

I fear that the regents wish to appoint a president whose appreciation for the liberal arts and education more broadly defined is minimal, but who shares Governor Vilsack's vision of the university as a midwife for entrepreneurs and an incubator for high-tech start-up firms engaged in trendy areas such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, and alternative energy.

I hope I am being too pessimistic.

Peter Hansen

Annual Meeting Approaching

The chapter's Annual Meeting will be held on the morning of Saturday May 6 in the Lindquist Room on the lower level of the downtown Sheraton Iowa City Hotel. It will begin with a social gathering over coffee, rolls, and juices at 10:00 a.m. and proceed to a brief business meeting at 10:30. At 11:00, the university's Vice President for Research, Meredith Hay, will deliver the keynote address. The meeting should end by noon. Members of the Executive Committee are hopeful that many members will attend this year's Annual Meeting both to permit the membership to share views on the many issues touching on academic freedom currently confronting our campus, and to provide a sizable audience for Vice President Hay's address.

Promotion Workshop on April 4

Our AAUP chapter, Faculty Senate, and the Office of the Provost invite you to a Promotion Workshop, Tuesday, April 4, 2006 in W401 Pappajohn Business Building. The discussion will focus on standards and procedures applicable to promotion to the rank of full professor for both tenure track and clinical associate professors.

Speakers include Associate Provost for Faculty Susan Johnson and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Executive Associate Dean Raul Curto. In addition, collegiate representatives from Business, Education, Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health will be available to discuss both the procedures and substantive standards governing promotion to the rank of full professor within the different colleges.

Informal conversation and refreshments will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the formal program will commence at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will attend and invite other interested persons. Please direct questions to Lois Cox,

lois-cox@uiowa.edu.

Tenure Workshop on April 19

Our AAUP chapter, Faculty Senate, and the Office of the Provost invite you to the annual Tenure Workshop, to be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 in W401 Pappajohn Business Building. A panel of speakers will give those in attendance advice on how to be successful in obtaining tenure, and will discuss applicable procedures.

Speakers include Associate Provost for Faculty Susan Johnson, Professor of Law David Baldus, former Chairperson of the Department of English Brooks Landon, and University Ombudspersons Cynthia Joyce and Craig Porter.

Informal conversation and refreshments will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the formal program will begin at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will attend and invite other interested persons. Please direct questions to Lois Cox, lois-cox@uiowa.edu.

AAUP Co-sponsors Legislative Forum

On the morning of Saturday, April 29, 2006, our AAUP chapter will co-sponsor a Legislative Forum with local elected representatives in the Iowa House of Representatives and Iowa Senate. In addition to the customary sponsor of such events, the League of Women Voters, this particular forum will also be co-sponsored by Iowans for Health Care, the Government Relations Committee of Faculty Senate, and the Iowa City Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. It will take place beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the chamber of the Iowa City City Council, 410 E. Washington Street. Everyone is invited and urged to attend to let our legislators know the strength of faculty members' interest in the issues facing the university.

AAUP Dues Reduction for New Members

In recent years, national AAUP policy has been to welcome all new members by offering them a dues reduction. New members who are untenured pay only 50% of the announced rate during the first year of membership, and may qualify for up to an additional three years of reduced dues at the same rate. Others receive a dues reduction of 50% during their first year of membership. In an effort to retain new members and to attract more, the Iowa chapter has chosen to subsidize by 50% the dues of all new members, tenured and untenured, for a total of three years. If you or your colleagues may be eligible for this reduced rate, pursuant to either national AAUP policy or local chapter policy, please contact the chapter treasurer, Kathy Clark, at mary-clark@uiowa.edu

Committee A

Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure exists to provide advice and assistance to members of the university community, both faculty and staff, who encounter procedural unfairness in connection with their employment. If you could benefit from Committee A's advice, or if you know someone who could, the person to contact is committee chairperson Ekhard Ziegler at ekhard-ziegler@uiowa.edu

If you know of colleagues who would like to join AAUP, membership information is available at our chapter's website <http://www.uiowa.edu/~aaupweb/>

or at the AAUP link on the Faculty Senate webpage through the university's website. Alternatively, you may reply to this e-mail and I will forward membership forms to you. Academic freedom and shared governance are as important now as they have ever been. Please consider becoming more active in AAUP work. And please encourage your colleagues to join us now. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Enjoy the spring!

Lois Cox